

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 9-11, and 13-27, as amended, and new claims 28-37 appear in this application for the Examiner's review and consideration. Claims 2, 4-8 and 12 have been cancelled without prejudice. Support for the claim amendments and new claims are disclosed herein to establish that no new matter is being introduced. Thus, all claim changes and additions should be entered at this time.

The specification and claims have been reviewed in light of the objections noted on page 2 of the action. In response, applicants have corrected the terms "swing", "residue" and "detachment profile" as suggested in the action. This resulted in the amendment of the specification on pages 2 and 3. In addition, explicit antecedent basis is now provided for "the interface" in claim 19 and for "severed" in claim 20. As noted, no new matter has been introduced and, accordingly, all objections have been overcome and should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-27 were also rejected under the second paragraph of 35 USC 112 as to the use of the term "substantially equivalent" and "substantially uniform planar". Although a skilled artisan knows what is meant by these terms, applicants have deleted all instances of the word "substantially" from the claims to expedite prosecution. This rejection is now rendered moot.

Claims 1, 12, 24, 25 and 27 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) by Kuwabara et al. JP 11-297583 for the reasons set forth on pages 5-6 of the action, while claims 1, 5, 12, 24, 25 and 27 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) by Kuwabara et al. WO 01/41218 for the reasons set forth on pages 6-7 of the action. Also, claims 1-3, 12, 20 and 26 were rejected under 35 USC 103 over the combination of Malik US patent 6,221,774 and Aga et al. US patent 6,846,718 for the reasons set forth on pages 8-10 of the action, with claim 4 rejected over that combination of references in further view of US patent 5,152,168 to Barlocchi et al. for the reasons set forth on pages 10-11 of the action. Allowable subject matter is also indicated in dependent claims 6-11, 13-19 and 21-23.

In response, Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite that the residual topography is severed by applying an impact force to the substrate. This step is generic to the specific embodiments disclosed in allowable claims 9, 13, 17, 21 and 22. This feature is not disclosed in any of the cited references, as acknowledged by the Examiner by the finding of allowability in those dependent claims. Thus, claim 1 is patentable over the cited references.

Also, claims 3, 9-11, 13-21 and 28-30, which depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, now should also be allowable. New claim 28 repeats the features of claim 4 but depends on claim 9, while new claims 29-30 are directed to the preferred substrates recited in paragraph 40 of the published specification

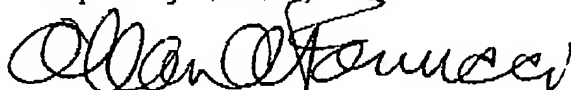
New independent claim 31 is directed to an invention that combines the chemical attack feature of claim 5 and the substrate rotation feature of claim 20. As the latter claim was not rejected over the cited art, independent claim 31 is believed to be allowable. Claims 32 to 37 are also believed to be allowable by virtue of their dependency from claim 30 as well as due to the additional recitations presented in those claims. Claim 32 is supported by original but now cancelled claim 4, claims 33-35 by allowable claims 6-8, claim 36 by claim 24 and claim 37 by paragraph 40 of the specification

Accordingly, as all rejections have been overcome, it is believed that the entire application is now in condition for allowance, early notice of which would be appreciated. In the event that the Examiner does not agree that all claims are now allowable, a personal or telephonic interview is respectfully requested to discuss any remaining issues in an effort to expedite the eventual allowance of this application.

Date

July 28, 2005

Respectfully submitted,



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